

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06724 092058Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6724

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, MARR, GW, SP

SUBJ: REPORT OF INVITATION FOR SPANISH TO OBSERVE FRG

ARMY MANEUVERS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

FOLLOWING ARTILE DATELINED BONN BY JOSE COMAS APPEARED IN
THURSDAY AFTRENOON DIARIO 16: BEGIN TEXT

1. NINE SPANISH MILIATRY, HEADED BY GENERAL OF DIVISION
JESUS GONZALEZ DEL HIERRO, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE ARMY GENERAL
STAFF, WILL ATTEND THE AUTUMN MANEUVERS OF THE FRG ARMY
IN KASSEL NEXT SEPTEMBER 13.

2. THE PROGRAM OF THE VISIT BY THE SPANISH OFFICERS
INCLUDES INTRODUCTORY CONFERENCES IN THE WEST GERMAN
DEFENSE MINISTRY, A RECEPTION IN THE SPANISH MILITARY
ATTACHE'S OFFICE IN BONN, ATTENDANCE OF THE MANEUVERS, AND
VISITS TO THE TANK SCHOOL AND THE GENERAL STAFF. THE
SPANISH OFFICERS WILL ALSO VISIT WEST BERLIN AND THE
BORDER BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE DGR, THE LINE WHICH
SEPARATES THE TWO GERMANY'S.

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PAGE 02 MADRID 06724 092058Z

3. THE MANEUVERS INCLUDE THE MOBILIZATION OF 39,000 TROOPS
AND, PLACE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATO SERIES", LT.
COL. LOEHR OF THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TOLD D16.
THE OFFICER SAID THAT HE COULD NOT RECALL IF ON EARLIER
OCCASIONS THERE HAD BEEN SUCH A LARGE REPRESENTATION OF
SPANISH OFFICERS, BUT THAT THIS ATTENDANCE "ALWAYS HAS A
POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. WE HAVE RELATIONS IN THE MILITARY

FIELD OUTSIDE NATO AND WE ARE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING
THESE RELATIONS." END TEXT

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4. JUSMG AND DAO SOURCES SAY THAT THIS IS ABSOLUTELY NORMAL,
PART OF THE OVERALL EXCHANGE PROGRAM WHICH THE SPANISH MILITARY
MAINTAINS WITH ITS GERMAN COUNTERPARTS. THE INVITATION
WAS EXTENDED THROUGH THE SPANISH ATTACHE'S OFFICE IN BONN,
TO ATTEND A PART OF THE REFORGER SERIES. THEY SAY THERE
ARE TWO OR THREE SUCH INVITATIONS EACH YEAR, AND THE SIZE OF
THE DELEGATION IS NOT OVERLARGE, SINCE IT WILL SPLIT IN TWO
GROUPS TO COVER MORE GROUND.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE FRG SPOKESMAN'S REMARK THAT THIS IS
NOT UNUSUAL AND OUTSIDE NATO, WE ARE CERTAIN THAT IT WILL
BE CONSIDERED BY SOME SPANISH OBSERVERS AS ANOTHER STEP
IN THE SPAIN/NATO PROCESS.EATON

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